

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 04358 051603Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OPR-02 SY-10 IO-13 AID-20

OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 /148 W

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O 051400Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2638

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AVEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE 3611

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION UN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 4358

E.O. 11652: N/AOTAGS: PINT, RW

SUBJECT: RWWNDA NATIONAL GUARD COUP

REF: NAIROBI 4329

1. EMBASSY KIGALI HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL MESSAGE
BY RADIO.

2. GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA DISMISSED EARLY JULY 5 BY NATIONAL
GUARD. PRESIDENT KAYIBANDA UNDER GUARD "PROTECTION" AND
IT NOT YET CLEAR IF HE REMAINS CHIEF OF STATE. "NATIONAL
COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND UNITY" REPLACED GOVERNMENT AND
NUMBER TWO MEN IN MINISTRIES CONDUCTING CURRENT BUSINESS.
FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE UNAFFECTED,
TREATIES REMAIN IN FORCE.

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3. UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE BY LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES
AND HAVE REQUESTED AMERICAN EMBASSY NAIROBI BY VOICE RADIO

TO INFORM DEPT. OF TAKEOVER OF RWANDA GOVT. BY NATIONAL GUARD. THIS OCCURRED EARLY MORNING JULY 5 AND GENERAL HABYARIMANA AND HIGH MILITARY COMMAND CLEARLY IN CHARGE. CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WERE INVITED TO MINISTRY OF NATIONAL GUARD AT 1130 HOURS JULY 5, AND OFFICER READ STATEMENT OF EIGHT-POINT COMMUNIQUE AND SAID GUARD'S ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT "BLOOD BATH." STATEMENT REITERATED THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DISSOLVED AND GOVT. NOW IN HANDS OF "COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL UNITY AND PEACE," EXACT MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH UNKNOWN, PRESUMABLY SAME HIGH COMMAND OFFICERS WHO SIGNED ORIGINAL COMMUNIQUE. STATEMENT SAID FOREIGN POLICY UNCHANGED AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS UNAFFECTED; ALSO SAFETY AND SECURITY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS GUARANTEED. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION WHETHER KAYIBANDA STILL PRESIDENT, OFFICER WAS NON-COMMITTAL. SPECULATION AMONG COLLEAGUES WAS, IN VIEW HIS IMAGE AS FATHER OF REVOLUTION, HE MIGHT WELL REMAIN AS FIGUREHEAD.

4. PREFACE TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF EIGHT STEPS REFERRED TO DIVISION BEING ENCOURAGED BY REGIONAL GROUPS WHICH JEOPARDIZED NATIONAL UNITY AND PEACE. IT CHARGED THAT PRESIDENT, "FOR WHOM WE STILL HAVE HIGH REGARD," HAD PERMITTED HIMSELF TO BE MANIPULATED BY ENEMIES OF PEACE WHO FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL RWANDANS ARE BROTHERS, NO MATTER FROM WHICH REGION THEY CAME." PREFACE SAID, "THIS VERY NIGHT COUNTRY WAS HEADED TOWARDS ABYSS FOREVER" AND THUS GUARD COULD NOT SIT WITH ARMS CROSSED.

5. PARMEHUTU PARTY PRIMARY ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE HELD TODAY THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. THESE OF COURSE HAVE BEEN CANCELLED WITH INTERDICTION OF ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

6. REFERENCE TO "REGIONAL GROUPS" UNDOUBTEDLY RELATES TO WELL-KNOWN ANTI-GOVERNMENT SENTIMENTS IN NORTH. REFERENCE TO THISQUOTE SUGGESTS SOME KIND OF COUP ATTEMPT MAY HAVE BEEN IMMINENT AND GUARD'S COUP POSSIBLY TAKEN TO PREVENT MORE SERIOUS COUP. THERE HAS BEEN COUP TALK LATELY AND IN FACT PRESIDENT SPENT MUCH TIME IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ADDRESS JULY 1 TALKING OF COUP RUMORS AND ASSERTING ANYONE WHO DISSATISFIED WITH HIS RULE WELCOME TO TAKE OVER.

7. ALL IS QUIET IN KIGALI AND EVERYTHING APPEARS NORMAL EXCEPT FOR WIDESPREAD PRESENCE ARMED SOLDIERS, PARTICULARLY AROUND HOUSES OF FORMER MINISTERS.

8. REQUEST DEPT. REPEAT THIS MESSAGE, OR GIST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE AMERICAN EMBASSIES.LINDSTROM

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